



New Mexico Coalition to  
End Homelessness

# **HELP US PROTECT SAFE OUTDOOR SPACES IN ALBUQUERQUE!**



**THESE CITY COUNCILORS RECENTLY VOTED FOR A  
MORATORIUM ON SAFE OUTDOOR SPACES.**

**PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THEM AND VOICE YOUR  
SUPPORT OF SAFE OUTDOOR SPACES AND URGE THEM  
TO SUPPORT SAFE OUTDOOR SPACES AS WELL!**

Brooke Bassan District 4 [\(505\) 768-3101](mailto:bbassan@cabq.gov)

Louie Sanchez District 1 [\(505\) 768-3111](mailto:esanchez@cabq.gov)

Klarissa Pena District 3 [\(505\) 768-3127](mailto:kpena@cabq.gov)

Dan Lewis District 5 [\(505\) 768-3118](mailto:danlewis@cabq.gov)

Trudy Jones District 8 [\(505\) 768-3106](mailto:trudyjones@cabq.gov)

Renee Grout District 9 [\(505\) 768-3123](mailto:rgrout@cabq.gov)

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ABQ RIGHT NOW?**

Last week, Albuquerque City Council passed a bill that puts a moratorium (pause) on creating Safe Outdoor Spaces in the city. This pause will mean that the city cannot accept applications for Safe Outdoor Spaces until next August.

Mayor Keller Vetoed the bill in an effort to keep Safe Outdoor Spaces an option for Albuquerque. We stand in strong support of Mayor Keller's decision and are grateful for his leadership in support of the homeless.

The council needs six votes to override Keller's mayoral veto and pass the bill that pauses applications on Safe Outdoor Spaces. The meeting where this vote will take place will be on September 7th, 2022.

We need your help to call or email the city councilors above and urge them to support Safe Outdoor Spaces and to support and show up for our homeless community members.

## **WHAT ARE SAFE OUTDOOR SPACES?**

Safe Outdoor Spaces, or SOS, are sanctioned encampments that allow homeless people to legally stay in public, outdoor areas that are approved by the city. Sites chosen to become SOS have 24/7 oversight by non-profit partners who manage the sites. Sites chosen to become SOS also usually require applications for those hoping to stay at an SOS. Because of this, sites have a maximum capacity limit, so that no SOS has too many people staying at one site. Applicants with active warrants are not allowed in SOS and those staying in an SOS must be actively working to get into stable housing.

## **WHY ARE SAFE OUTDOOR SPACES NEEDED?**

SOS sites provide, at a minimum, privacy and security; bathrooms, trash services; drinking water and daily meals; and outreach services including housing and employment referral.

Creating spaces that allow homeless individuals to rest, get access to basic necessities, and feel safety, allows those people to have time and ability to apply for housing, jobs, and regain a sense of agency that many lose when losing access to basic necessities.

Importantly, SOS sites have 24/7 oversight from non-profit partners who work with the homeless individuals staying at the SOS to get them into stable housing and employment as quickly as possible.

SOS sites are, almost always, chosen as places where homeless people are already congregating. Because of this, while some have strong aversion to SOS because of NIMBYISM (Not in My Backyard), banning SOS does not mean that homeless people will not congregate in these areas, it simply means those people will congregate in these areas without access to food, toilets, shelter, and needed services. Because most SOS require that those staying at an SOS need to be actively working to get into housing, the aim of SOS are to transition people living in SOS into long-term housing as quickly as possible.

**PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT TO OUR  
HOMELESS COMMUNITY AND TAKE ACTION  
WITH US TO SAVE SAFE OUTDOOR SPACES IN  
ALBUQUERQUE!**